

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15263 172120Z

73/11

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /026 W

----- 075036

O 170720Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7722

AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15263

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

FOR THE SECRETARY'S PARTY AND ASST SEC ATHERTON

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, SY, SA, LE

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SADAT AND SAUDIS RE SYRIAN MEDIATION IN
LEBANON

REF: BEIRUT 15202

1. AS NOTED REFTTEL, RECENT VISITS TO DAMASCUS BY BROAD SPECTRUM
OF LEBANESE POLITICAL LEADERS POINT TO NEW SYRIAN ATTEMPT TO RE-
STORE ORDER IN LEBANON. THIS MIGHT COME TO INCLUDE YET ANOTHER
VISIT TO BEIRUT BY KHADDAM (HIS THIRD). IT WOULD BE UNFORTUNATE
IF EGYPTIANS (WITH SAUDI CONCURRENCE) WORKED AGAINST SUCH A
SETTLEMENT.

2. IN OUR VIEW, WHETHER KHADDAM COMES TO BEIRUT OR NOT,
SYRIAN EFFORT TO ASSIST IN ENDING THE FIGHTING AND ARRIVING AT
POLITICAL SOLUTION IS INDISPENSABLE. SYRIAN ROLE IN LEBANESE
POLITICS DIFFERS FROM EGYPTIAN OR SAUDI ARABIAN: WHILE SYRIA
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 15263 172120Z

IS PROBABLY IN POSITION TO BRING ABOUT A LEBANESE SETTLEMENT,

THE OTHERS ARE AT BEST ONLY IN A POSITION TO THWART ONE.
(FOR EXAMPLE, JUST WHEN THE SECOND KHADDAM MISSION APPEARED TO
HAVE SUCCEEDED, IT WAS THWARTED BY THE EGYPTIAN-INSPIRED
ARAB LEAGUE INITIATIVE, WHICH ENCOURAGED VARIOUS LEBANESE
FACTIONS TO BACK OFF COMMITMENTS MADE TO KHADDAM AND TO
CONTINUE SEEKING SUPPORT FROM THEIR FAVORITE ARAB PATRONS.)

3. JUDGING BY SADAT'S RECENT PUBLIC STATEMENTS, HE APPEARS
INTENT ON WARNING "HANDS OF LEBANON" INCLUDING BY THE SYRIANS
BY THIS WARNING SADAT SEEMS TO BE OVERLOOKING HIS OWN OBSERVATION
IN SAME INTERVIEW THAT OUTSIDE GROUPS SUCH AS SAIQA AND
"SOME OF THE ARAB COUNTRIES" SEND ARMS AND FUNDS TO LEBANON
(TO "NOUVELLE OBSERVATEUR," REPORTED PER FBIS OVER CAIRO
RADIO 0500GMT DECEMBER 14) DOES SADAT REALLY BELIEVE HIS
ORAL WARNING WILL BE ENOUGH TO STOP THEM? WOULD IT NOT BE
BETTER TO ENCOURAGE SETTLEMENT EFFORTS EVEN IF SYRIAN IS INVOLVED?

4. WE BELIEVE ANOTHER EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO OBTAIN, IF NOT
SADAT'S SUPPORT FOR A SYRIAN INITIATIVE, THEN AT LEAST HIS SILENCE
AND THAT OF THE SAUDI ARABIANS. WHILE SADAT CAN PROBABLY AGAIN
THWART A SYRIAN SETTLEMENT, HE CANNOT BRING ABOUT ONE OF HIS
OWN. IN FACT, THE CONTINUING CHAOS IN LEBANON WOULD APPEAR TO
CONSTITUTE A GREATER THREAT TO EGYPTIAN AND SAUDI INTERESTS
THAN WOULD A REASONABLE POLITICAL SETTLEMENT EVEN IF IT RESULTED
FROM SYRIAN MEDIATION. WE RECOMMEND SUCH AN APPROACH BE PART
OF ASST. SEC. ATHERTON'S BRIEF ON HIS PRESENT ROUND OF VISITS
TO JIDDA AND CAIRO.
GODLEY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECRETARY'S PARTY.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, INTERVENTION, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: greeneet
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT15263
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750439-0132
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751233/aaaabcsp.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 15202
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: greeneet
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2003 by greeneet>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROACH TO SADAT AND SAUDIS RE SYRIAN MEDIATION IN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, SY, SA, LE
To: STATE PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006